

**From:** [Ann Tretter](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Please accept Institute of Medicine recommendations on preventive care  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 7:26:00 PM

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I am writing to implore you to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine on coverage of preventive care under the new health care law. Any exemptions for “religious employers” would undermine the intent of the plan and deprive untold numbers of woman from these vital services. Preventive services are a critical element of the new law and I stand with the American Association of University Women in urging you to stand firm against those who would erode the intent if the Institute’s recommendations.

While AAUW believes that “religious refusal” exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services, I understand that at the opposite end of the spectrum are those pushing the government to make exemptions even larger. Some groups are pushing for the exemption to apply to religiously-run health providers, so hospitals with religious affiliations would be exempt from the coverage requirement even though they employ people of all faiths and ideologies.

I urge you to ensure women have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM’s recommendations and rejecting the proposed religious refusal exemption provisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

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